



UNITED STATES SENATOR • NEBRASKA

**CHUCK HAGEL**

F L O O R   S P E E C H E S



Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to wish the United States Army happy birthday. It was 225 years ago today, in 1775, that the Continental Army of the United States was formed. That Continental Army of the United States has had a rich, important impact on our country.

Millions of men and women over the last 225 years have served in the senior branch of services of our military forces of the U.S. Army. The Army is interwoven into the culture of America. Those who have had the great privilege of serving in this country in the U.S. Army understand that. It may have been a little difficult during basic training for some, but as we progressed through basic training and became Army men and women, formed, shaped, and molded from raw recruiting into something that America could be proud of, and we could be proud of ourselves, that touch, that impact, that molding, that shape, has defined our country, has defined our culture, and has, in fact, defined the world. The U.S. Army has had an incredible effect on our country and the world for the better.

'Duty, honor, country' is the motto of the U.S. Army. It is America. It is who we are. Not one generation of Americans who have served in the U.S. Army have gone untouched by not only what America is about but what the Army is about. It is a shaping and molding that has touched lives in ways that are hard to explain, just as the Army has touched our national life and made the world more secure, more prosperous, and a better world for all mankind.

On this 225th birthday of the U.S. Army, as an old infantry-man who served in the U.S. Army, I say happy birthday to the veterans of this country. We recognize and acknowledge and pay tribute to those generations who have served before some of us had the opportunity to serve a newer Army.

It is the Army that has laid the foundation for our services today and for a stronger America. To that, we say, again, happy birthday and thank you, in the great rich tradition of the U.S. Army.

Mr. President, we say 'hoo-ha.'